

Lawrence K. White

A 1933 graduate of West Point, Lawrence K. White went on to have a distinguished World War II record as a combat infantry commander. A full colonel at the age of 31, he was wounded while leading his regiment in the battle for Baguio in the Phillipines in 1945. Upon leaving the military service on a medical disability in 1947, Colonel White joined the Central Intelligence Group and was appointed Deputy Chief of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Shortly thereafter, he was named Chief/FBIS and was responsible for the conversion of that organization from its wartime status to that of a permanent and ongoing component of the Intelligence Community.

In 1954, the then Director of Central Intelligence, Allen Dulles, named Colonel White as the Assistant Deputy Director for Administration and charged him with establishing a centralized support mechanism to serve all components of CIA and to replace the many decentralized support organizations existing up until that time. By 1955, these organizational changes had been completed and the early form of the Directorate of Administration as we know it today was in place. Colonel White led the Agency's support mechanisms for 11 years and raised the standards of Agency administration and support to a level of excellence recognized throughout the Federal Government. He selected and trained a cadre of professional support officers whose dedication and efficiency has had a continuing influence on the Agency's activities. In 1965, Colonel White was named Executive Director/Comptroller and brought to this assignment the same quality, dedication, compassion, and impartiality that had characterized his prior service. He retired in 1972 leaving behind a legacy of service and devotion to the CIA.